हैं, तो मैं रक्षा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या इन बातों की जानकारी उन्हें है ? अगर है, तो इसको सारा सुधार करने के लिए वह क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, the thrust of the Government policy is to see cost-effectiveness and reduction in unnecessary expenditure as the hon. Member has mentioned. We are conscious of the fact that cost-effectiveness should be made in all such production units.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Jabalpur vehicle factory owned by the Government of India itself had offered trucks at a cheaper rate than that offered by certain private sector companies like TELCO. Yet the concerned authorities of the Defence Ministry have preferred the Private Sector to their own factory, the Jabalpur Vehicle Factory. If so, are orders placed with that factory? And if not, what steps is the Government going to take so that the Jabalpur Vehicle Factory is placed with the order which they are prepared to do at the cost acceptable to the Government ?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Certainly, the Government will give maximum importance to acquire from our own ordnance factory...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : But the fact is they have got the spare capacity. They have offered it. But the Government is preferring the private sector to its own factory possibly because the Government factory could not offer the kickbacks or commission. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, this is...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : I stand by my own statement. Let him inquire and come to the House.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, if it is his own conviction of this I will take note of it.

Expansion of Indian Navy

*145. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what according to the assessment, if any, made by defence analysts is the overall impact on the modernisation and expansion of the Indian Navy with the reduction in the defence budget;

(b) whether Government propose to suitably enhance the naval capabilities considering the regional and global naval trends when the countries are embarking on steady enhancement of their naval striking power;

(c) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN (a) to (d) There has been no reduction in the Defence budget. The modernisation of the Indian Navy, and her force levels, are considered with reference to the Perspective Plan and the Annual Plans drawn up for the purpose, also taking into account the geo-strategic environment, the threat perception, the country maritime interests, the likely tasks that the Navy may be called upon to perform, and the availability of budgetary resources. The navy is being maintained in a state of preparedness, to handle any exigency that may arise.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Sir, I understand, the naval experts feel that India should double the size of its navy in view of the unfortunate collapse of the Soviet Union. Only a strong Navy will be able to accord the nation a legitimate, permissible transborder or external identity and relevance. In spite of India being a poor country from Western standards, India came into global focus owing to the growth of the Indian Navy in mid-1980s. India should aim at a modest expansion and modernization programme of the Indian Navy. Almost all nations surrounding India are embarked on steadily enhancing their naval striking power. The hon. Minister says in his reply, "There has been no reduction in the Defence budget." That means as far as the strength of the Navy is concerned, it is stationary. This, in view of the fact that all surrounding countries are increasing their naval striking power, is

not a happy thought. My first supplementary is, has the Government made a projection as to how the strength of the Indian Navy would compare with the strength of the Navy of other countries in the region by the end of the century compared to what it is today? In other words, does the Government assure the Parliament that the position that India occupies today as a naval power in the region would not be disturbed?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, I fully appreciate the feeling of the hon. Member that we should strengthen our naval force. But as a laid down policy of the Government and also in the light of the threat perception, always it has been a concentrated effort to augment the naval production with the latest art of sophisticated technology so much so that we will be able to increase our naval striking power. But to achieve this, we have introduced force multipliers and these include introduction of radars, missiles and electronic warfare system and so on and so forth. So far as the position as on today is concerned, indigenously we have produced more than 50 warships and with the latest technology about a dozen such warships are still in the pipeline which will be produced by the end of the century to meet any threat, any eventuality from any quarter.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : My second supplementary is : Most of our naval vessels are of Russian origin. Sometime back I read in the papers that the navy was greatly handicapped due to shortage of spare parts. What arrangement has the Government made for obtaining spare parts required for our naval vessels after the visit of Shri Sharad Pawar, the Defence Minister to Russia and subsequent visit of the Naval Chief Admiral Ramdas?... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question hour is over...*(Interruptions)*... Papers to be laid on the Table of the House... *(Interruptions)*... Shri Mallikarjun ...*(Interruptions)*...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development programmes in backward areas

*143. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI' :
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some programmes have been started by government in rural and tribal areas of the country under the new Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such programmes are being implemented;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people in rural and tribal areas are getting the benefit of these programmes as declared by government; and

(d) if so, the number of people, so benefited, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The development of rural and backward areas, which include tribal areas also, is a continuing process. As per Second All India Census conducted on small scale industries recently, it has been found that the total number of functioning units located in the centrally declared backward areas has increased from 43% in 1972 to 49.6% in 1987-88.

To give a further impetus in the new policy which was announced on 6th August 1991, a scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development for small scale industries has been proposed for implementation in rural and backward areas to facilitate location of industries in such areas, promote stronger linkages between agriculture and industry by providing common service facilities and technological back-up services.

Special Employment Generation Scheme under Khadi & Village Industry Sector is also being implemented in close coordination with DRDA and nationalised banks. The scheme has already been introduced